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### VIEW FROM THE MAST SERIES

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# FLOYD THEODORE PRATT AND HIS UNLIKELY CONVERSION

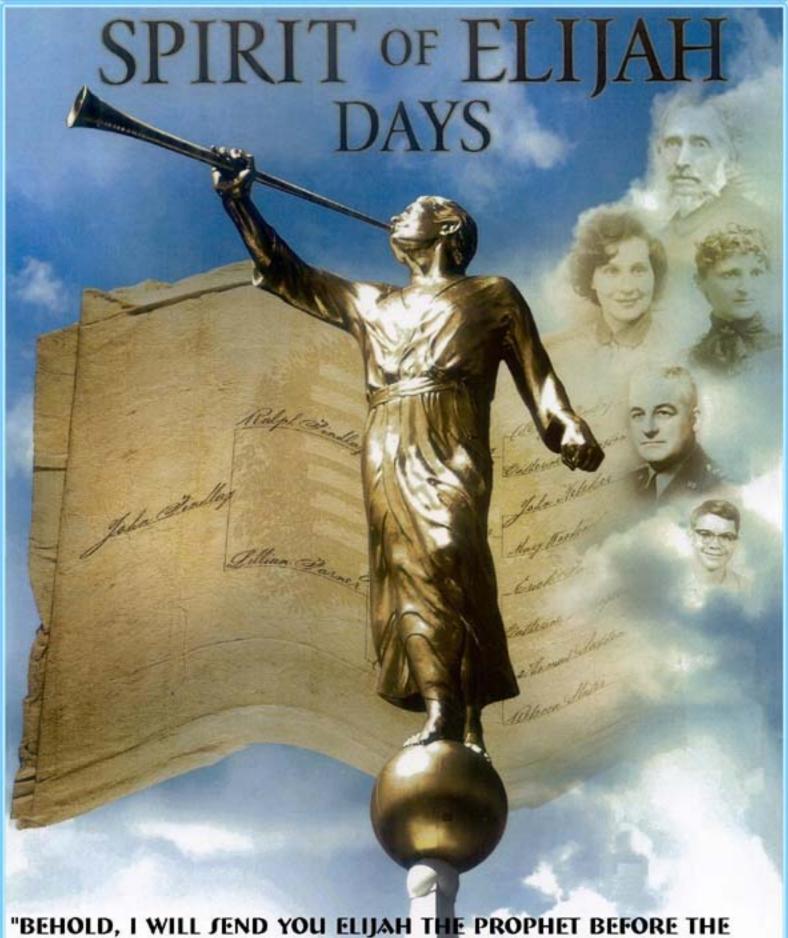
By
Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
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During my Father's lifetime, his interest in religious teaching was nil. Raised by a God-loving mother, and taught by example; the merits of a religious upbringing, Floyd upon attaining adulthood saw no value in a religious lifestyle.

Avoiding all forms of religious instruction, he lived a good life void of the religious benefits learned in his youth. Only after death, does he accept the Plan of Salvation as testified in this article. This article is a warning to all those who procrastinate their salvation. Through procrastination, they carelessly, jeopardize their happiness, forfeit spiritual blessings and those they love are made to suffer.

Floyd was lucky he had family willing to rescue him from the pains of spirit prison or aka purgatory. You may not be so lucky. Read his story and learn from his mistakes and seek the missionaries for wisdom by learning of the Plan of Salvation the Savior freely offers to all men.

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"BEHOLD, I WILL JEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE JHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

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#### **BURN OUT...**



My father; Floyd Theodore Pratt known to family and friends, as "Ted" was not interested in religion.

Born on the 6th of January 1927 on the Ohlinger Farm outside of Bourbon, Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri, 4th child of Columbus "Lum" Benjamin Alexander and Rue Flavilla (**JOHNSON**) Pratt, young Floyd, was introduced to religion at an early age by his faithful mother.

Bourbon, Missouri is a small hamlet located on Interstate 44 between Sullivan and Cuba, Missouri. The population in the 2010 census consisted of 1600 people. Built on the old Springfield Road in the mid 1860's, named by the railroad workers for Bourbon whisky, which they drank as they built the Pacific Railroad from St. Louis through Springfield, Missouri.



During the 1920's through the 1940's, Grandmother Rue would take her children to her church of choice...The Pentecostal Church of Bourbon and later the Assembly of God Church.

Obviously, attending church was not appealing or enjoyed by young Floyd or his siblings, since upon attaining adulthood, he very rarely set foot inside a church except when coerced for special occasions.

The only recollection I have of Dad attending church was when we visited his mother; my Grandmother Rue in Bourbon in the 1950's and 1960's and she insisted Floyd and his family attend church with her so she could "show off" her son and her grandsons. I am sure Grandmother Rue asked every one of her adult children and their families to attend church with her when they would visit.

Dad's reluctance to attend church as an adult, I feel was a direct result of his early exposure to the tedious weekly ritual of church attendance.

No child likes to get up on Sunday morning and wash, brush their teeth, comb their hair, dress in their Sunday best and march down the street two blocks to attend a gathering, they didn't care about or understand.

The Pratt home, with six children all busy preparing for their attendance at their mother's church excluding a disinterested father; Lum, must have been a scene of disorientation and confusion.

This weekly ritual has been repeated across the world for thousands of years. The effect of this exposure on young Floyd must have produced an inherent hostility towards anything religious.

Maybe it was "burn-out"...too much regimental forced behavior and not enough answers. Maybe, it was the lack of the father setting a good example for his children in support of his wife's decision to attend church.

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After all, I am sure this statement was repeated many times..."Why do I have to go to church...Dad doesn't have to go?"

And maybe, in all fairness, this indifference towards religion was not Floyd's fault. Like millions of attendees before and since, churches of various denominations have failed to instruct their congregations on basic fundamental concepts, *i.e.*, the Plan of Salvation, the purpose of Life, why are we here, the origin of man and most important of all, man's relationship with his Heavenly Father.

In addition, questions such as...what is the reason and purpose for the Atonement of Jesus Christ and just exactly what was the mission of our Savior...Jesus Christ?

Without obtaining the purpose and the true knowledge to these fundamental questions, most children when attaining adulthood, have already rejected any form of religious instructions due to this lack of understanding.

Church attendance by local families became more of a social event, where the townsfolk could "catch-up" on weekly events with friends and family, than a place where one could obtain spiritual growth and instruction.

This lack of understanding to these basic questions has permeated throughout generations until...the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ was presented to the Prophet Joseph Smith and the formation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the mid-1800's.

Without these important points of doctrine, good men did the best they could, while others decided to avoid church altogether, after all, it is hard to commit to anything one does not understand.

#### **ADULTHOOD...**

Upon attaining adulthood, the lure and attraction of the world was appealing and much more to Floyd's liking than the restrictive, confining dogma of religion.

For a comprehensive biography of Floyd's life read, "Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt Volume 3 of the Pratt Chronicles Series" by this author. This book when finished will appear at the following website...https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists

In 1945, Floyd was drafted and sent to boot camp in Camp Rucker, Alabama and trained as a "Patrol Torpedo" or PT boat operator for the upcoming invasion of Japan.

Unfortunately, life in the military magnifies ones desire for worldly attractions and represents the opposite of spiritual growth and enlightenment found in churches.

There is an old fallacious statement, "when in Rome do as the Romans do". Also, a more accurate saying, "If you lay down with dogs you are going to get fleas". In other words, the type of people and activities you associate, eventually you will want to emulate...good and bad.

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Consequently, instead of military life drawing him closer to his Heavenly Father, Floyd and millions like him, focused and embraced the world and pushed his Heavenly Father further away from his life.

When he was discharged in 1945, he returned home but found the daily hard labor of stone masonry work performed by his father, not to his liking and decided to move into Saint Louis, living with various relatives.

Floyd sought the good things in life and enjoyed his newly found freedom. In his mind his tenure in the Armed Forces taught him there was a big world "out there" to see and embrace and attending church only taught him restrictive and confining principles.

Consequently, in the big city, he associated with like-minded people, who enjoyed the unbridled passions of life and unencumbered by the restrictions and discipline of religious foundations.

He found acceptance in the local drinking establishments with these non-judgmental people, who shared his values and accepted his lifestyle. His fellow companions after a hard day at work, found solace in a bottle of alcohol. In one of these establishments he met his first wife, Delores, she being one of those kindred spirits.

Courtship, a short marriage followed by divorce, producing your author during this marriage tenure, Floyd eventually remarried and settled down to a formal family life.

Still, without any formal religious training as an adult, and basing all he knew concerning religion on his childhood memories and perceptions, Floyd continued his life void of the basic understanding of the purpose of life.

When my brothers and I attained our early teen years, Floyd and 2nd spouse; Dorothy decided we needed some form of religious training. Evidently, we were exhibiting anti-social behavior and I guess Floyd and Dorothy thought church instruction would help.

They sent us to a Baptist Church on Lindbergh Avenue in Saint Louis County near our house in Florissant and after Sunday school; they would pick us up and return home.

Unknown to Floyd or Dorothy, this futile attempt of instilling some form of religious instruction was met with anger, hostility and confusion from my brothers and I, especially when our parents were not setting a good example by attending with us.

Their lack of attendance was sending a strong message to us...church was someplace you sent your children to get rid of them for a short time.

Floyd's detachment and disinterest in religious instruction, I would discover years later was a direct result from his father's example, when Floyd was a child and this same attitude almost prevented me from accepting baptism with my family when Bonnie and I and the children were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on the 20th of December 1975.

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After a few weeks of attending the Baptist Church, my parents quit taking us and the subject was never discussed again. In my opinion it was too little, too late.

#### **SALVATION EXPLAINED...**

As the years moved on, like I mentioned, my wife and I and our children were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1975).

Excited and overjoyed with my newly found church family and seeking a desire to share my joy and newly discovered knowledge concerning the Lord's Kingdom upon the Earth, I wanted to share this knowledge with friends and family.

I began instructing my father in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and explaining the basic concepts of the Plan of Salvation. Polite and never judgmental, my father listened but was really not interested in my revelations, explanations or personal experiences.

Even to my surprise and disappointment, he never wanted to investigate my claims or even attend one meeting to validate or dismiss any concepts or doctrine. Consequently, I never was able to get the missionaries into his home to explain the Plan of Salvation nor help him investigate the Lord's Church.

Even after Bonnie and I moved out of Missouri in 1994, I tried long distance from Florida to persuade Dad and Mom to investigate the church...to my chagrin.

In a last ditch effort, I wrote them the following letter on the 11th of October 2011.

#### DEAR MOM AND DAD,

Enclosed with this letter are two large print books with a combined collection of three different amazing works.

The Book of Mormon
The Doctrine and Covenants
The Pearl of Great Price

My primary concern for you at this time is to read the Book of Mormon. Collectively these books are called the Triple Combination holding very important information about latter-day revelation.

#### **BOOK OF MORMON**

First, the Book of Mormon is a collection of books written by our native ancestors concerning their departure from Jerusalem to the shores of Africa, building a ship and crossing easterly to the South American continent.

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How, where, when and most importantly, why they left their homes in Jerusalem and made this journey is of great concern to you and me, especially Dad, since he carries Cherokee blood in his veins.

The inhabitants of the Book of Mormon built great civilizations on the South American continent and the descendants of these civilizations became known as the American Native Indians.

Little did I know they were my ancestors until I was already a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for almost 7 years before I discovered we were Cherokee!

As the Bible was written by various inspired writers, so too, is the Book of Mormon. Once you begin reading these stories I feel you will be enlightened and interested in the events that took place between 400bc to 1500ad in the Americas.

There is an account of the Savior visiting these inhabitants AFTER his resurrection. This is a very moving and loving account of the way the people in the western hemisphere accepted him after he had been rejected by the people in the eastern hemisphere.

If you could begin with reading a chapter a day, then we can talk about what you have read and don't forget to pray about what you have read. By asking the Lord if these things you are reading are true, the Holy Ghost will manifest to your spirit these things are true...but you must ask him through prayer.

#### **DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS**

Concerning the Doctrine and Covenants, when Joseph Smith began to organize the restored Church as the Lord directed him; he had to deal with events and circumstances concerning this restoration on a day-by-day basis.

This required him to ask the Lord for guidance and advice and his interactions with the Lord are recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants. Scribes recorded these events given to Joseph Smith just as the Lord instructed. The transcribers and authors of the Bible also recorded their events for posterity's sake.

I am not as concerned you read the D&C because these are doctrines that usually are discussed in classes designated for that purpose. In other words, the D&C is for advanced studies and not for the novice.

### PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The third book is called the Pearl of Great Price. This book you both might find interesting.

When Joseph Smith was living in Nauvoo, Illinois, an archeologist displaying his research and diggings at an exposition in Chicago was informed Joseph Smith could translate Egyptian hieroglyphics into English. This was years before the Rosetta stone though found in 1799 was not fully understood until 1929 when published by British Museum curator Sir Ernest Alfred Thompson Wallis Budge titled, "The Rosetta Stone."

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This archeologist had a scroll he had dug up in Egypt and brought it to Joseph Smith asking him if he could translate the writings on the scroll.

As Joseph Smith studied the scroll he discovered they were writings by Moses at the time Moses had been denied by the Lord to go with the Israelites into Jordan.

Moses explains and details his discussions with the Lord including the story of the creation and other events depicted in the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Our Church published these three books, as a single combination, in one book however, I could not get a large print edition of the Book of Mormon by itself.

Therefore, I had to send you the triple combination, otherwise, even I, at this time of my life cannot read that little print in the regular Book of Mormon, so, I needed a large print edition myself.

My main concern is for you and Mom to read the Book of Mormon and pray about what you have read.

This is my last ditch effort in this life to reach out to both of you with the truth and share what I know to be the truth with you before you or I cross the veil.

These books are responsible for much spiritual healing in the lives of wounded souls and can lead you to happiness and understanding of some of the events that have taken place in your lives.

It has been written...the spirit you take with you to the grave is the same spirit that resides with you in the afterlife.

If you harbor ill feelings against someone on this earth or someone who has already passed from this earth, then it will be very hard to overcome those feelings in the next life, for; they too have taken the same spirit with them to the next world.

If I didn't know and believe in something I knew would be of benefit to both of you, then I would not bother you with these letters or even be concerned about your spiritual welfare.

It is because I know the truth and I am obligated and for the sake of my love for you I take the time to ask you to listen to the missionaries and to pray concerning the Book of Mormon.

It has been written, "The Book of Mormon will bring you closer to your Heavenly Father than any other book on the earth". Bold statement, unless you read it and find out for yourself!!

I know your thoughts are on your family and the family waiting for you across the veil, but you should be more concerned about your current standing before the Lord than about them.

It is not good enough to have just lived a decent and "good" life expecting all the blessings of heaven when the scriptures are so plain about what the Lord requires of you, while you are here on the earth.

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Due to a lack of obedience in this life, I know the unhappiness and disappointment waiting across the veil can be circumvented here and now and the Lord has shown us the way.

It is with this deep love and concern I have for you that prompts me to undertake this effort to help and rescue you before you have to stand before the judgment bar.

Were you good parents? Yes. In the eyes of the world...you did worldly things, you taught worldly lessons, you enjoyed worldly pleasures, we all do.

You taught morality; honestly, courage and you supplied your family with the material needs they needed even to the extent beyond the basic and more on the side of luxury. For this example I am truly grateful, and my gratitude is manifested in the work I am doing for you and your ancestors in the Lord's Holy Temples.

However, there are questions you will be required to answer after you cross the veil at judgment. Were you honest in your dealings with your fellow man? Only you and the Lord know the answer to that question.

Did you follow the precepts of the Gospel and raise your family in the ways of the Lord as commanded in the scriptures? Did you set by example the correct way to follow the Lord and show and teach your children the righteous ways of the Gospel? Were you a full tithe payer?

These are questions and many more we, as Latter Day Saints are asked every time we ask for a Temple recommend allowing us to go to one of our temples. You will be asked these same questions on the other side and many more.

One of the most challenging questions to answer is going to be, did you forgive those that trespassed against you and not bear grudges because you had been hurt by someone who took advantage of you?

Did you read the scriptures and follow the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Now, is not too late, to begin to prepare for the next life.

The choice is yours, you can continue to delude yourself saying all is well and God will slap you on the wrist and forgive all you have done or you can begin the healing process through repentance.

Read the Book of Mormon, listen to the Missionaries, and attend the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for further instruction.

Don't consider my words as banter from a misguided son, I cannot stress the importance of you not leaving this world in the spiritual condition you both are in at this time. For this purpose, I have written this letter and shared my thoughts on this subject with you, but the choice is yours and you alone are responsible for the consequences.

Will I stand at your graves one day and say, they were good people, they were kind people, they were charitable people whom sacrificed their lives in the service of the Lord?

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Only you can write the ending to the book of your life. Reading the Book of Mormon is THE first step in changing the ending of your life to reflect a more positive spiritual attitude to take with you across the veil.

Most of the world will not listen and they are too busy being themselves and "enjoying" their short lives. But, if they would listen, then our churches would be full of members happy in their duty in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since both of you have rejected the religion of your parents, then obviously you felt something was lacking in the process or teachings. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is NOT the religion of your parents! It is much, much more.

Your deceased siblings now know it, your parents, grandparents and great grandparents all the way back to Adam knows this. If anyone of your parents or siblings were allowed to come back to earth and tell you, would you believe them? I think not. You would think it was a dream or an illusion.

Read what happened to Joseph Smith in his testimony in the beginning of the Book of Mormon. How many times did Moroni visit him and repeat his message?

Whatever your reasons for not attending church and reading the scriptures, are not good enough to gain forgiveness from the Lord. He will judge you saying, "You knew what the right thing to do was and yet, you rejected the message and the messengers".

Attending church and following the Savior by obedience to the Plan of Salvation is the right thing to do. Have you ever been sorry for doing the right thing?

Don't say, as I have heard you say before, you want to be with your friends and family after this life, and delude yourself into thinking you will enjoy the same fellowship you had with them on earth in the spirit world. I share with you this wisdom...after death the male spirits are separated from the female spirits unless... they have accepted the Plan of Salvation and have followed the precepts the Lord has laid down and have been sealed in the Holy Temple under the eternal covenant of Jesus Christ.

It is my intent and I really would like to share the heavens with my parents, but unless either the Lord changes his requirements or you change your attitude and take the steps necessary to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.....well, you write your own ending.

I have sent these books to you in LARGE print so you will be able to read their words. And your poor eyesight will not be an excuse.

I love you both as I also love my brothers and their families, but without a conversion process, I feel we may never be together again as a family.

Read the book, pray about the words, listen to the missionaries, go to church, get baptized by the authority of the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood of Jesus Christ and take Mom to the temple to be sealed together for time and eternity. It's not too late.

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As the Savior said, "If you love me, obey my commandments." If you and Mom do indeed love the Savior, then obey his commandments.

If not, then it's been nice to know you and you will be missed, for without baptism by one who holds the authority of Jesus Christ, no unclean thing can enter into the kingdom of heaven.

There I have said it, and here I have written it and I have done so with no less the love I have for anyone...especially my parents.

Do not feel these are hard words against you, for I have testified of this truth to you in order to shake your comfortable fallen spiritual condition in an attempt to redeem your souls.

Having the authority and being commissioned of our Lord Jesus Christ, and holding the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood of Jesus Christ gives me the right, authority and responsibility to proclaim to the world to repent and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having more love for my parents than strangers, I would be amiss in my duties and responsibilities if I did not at least try to help you on the straight and narrow path leading to salvation...especially if I knew the truth as I do.

I close this letter with my testimony, I know the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the Lord's true church and the only church authorized to administer the ordnances necessary for the salvation of man.

I testify; Joseph Smith was a prophet commissioned by the Lord to restore and establish the Lord's restored church in these latter days.

I testify; there is a living prophet, Thomas S. Monson in Salt Lake City who receives revelation on a daily basis for the welfare of all the Lord's people, yes, even the whole world.

I also bear testimony the Lord Jesus Christ is at the head of this church and guides his people through revelation and if he weren't, mankind would have destroyed this church just like we have destroyed all the other churches throughout history on this earth.

I bear my testimony, I have written these things, under the influence of my love for you, my parents, and inspired by the Holy Ghost, and in harmony with the spirit of the Savior...Jesus Christ, my friend...Amen. Your obedient and loving son, Tom

After my parents received the above letter, they were angry with me for a short time, I could tell by their silence. I received no thank you for your concern, no thank you for the books.

Not wanting to sever our communication, I kept in contact and tried to maintain a friendly non-judgmental attitude with them always with an eye focused on their spiritual well being.

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#### A WORD ABOUT NON-BELIEVERS...

I maintained communication with my parents, but as always with non-believers, it is very hard to explain your feelings and your knowledge concerning your Heavenly Father.

Especially, when you have received gifts, blessings and you have been a benefactor many times of his love and miracles. However, due to non-believer's iniquities, they cut themselves off from his love and blessings. Humans are so shallow...they don't understand believers.

I am going to share with you a truism; Faith in Heavenly Father yields contact from him manifested as blessings, good luck, coincidences and promptings from the Holy Ghost. As you exercise more faith and begin to be obedient to his teachings, you are given more blessings thereby increasing your faith and obedience, which generates more blessings.

The stronger you become in faith through obedience with Heavenly Father, the more he manifests himself to you giving you the sure knowledge of his existence. This is why non-believers can't understand believers because the non-believer will not do what is necessary to gain sure knowledge of their Heavenly Father's existence. Non-believers feel if they can't see it, touch it, taste it...it doesn't exist and it has no value.

Not only do non-believers not understand the deep love and respect you have for your Heavenly Father but most of them don't even believe he exists. To some the thought of his existence and the thought maybe he IS real, frightens them beyond their imagination.

Some rationalize, saying, "Since I can't remember where I was before I was born, then there must be nothing after I die".

Remember this, the most frightening concept to a non-believer the thought...God is real and he really does punish those who did not follow his teachings. To the non-believer the concept...if he is real and he does exist, then all he has said in the scriptures is real and non-believers are afraid of his judgment and retribution.

This is why atheists are confusing because they support a defeating concept. The very fact they deny Heavenly Father's existence lends credibility to his existence whereby they are actually acknowledging Heavenly Father is someone to be ignored and denied!!

Something else non-believers cannot or will not believe...there are actual dimensions of existence like heaven and hell other than the physical plane we call the universe.

Even with all the testimony of the saints in the scriptures, and the testimony of people who have had near death experiences in our modern age, they still want to deny what others have testified.

Instead of repenting and changing their lifestyle to be in harmony with the Plan of Salvation, they rationalize, it is better to deny his existence and pretend he does not exist and live their life their way, indulging in all manner of iniquities, without thinking of the future consequences.

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When I was a young man attending the Saint Louis Police Academy (1969), training to become a police officer, our instructor was discussing criminal behavior. I asked a question, "What is the difference between a normal, law-abiding individual and a criminal?"

He stated, "A law-abiding citizen thinks, I'll rob a bank, get money, get caught, go to jail, disgrace myself, ruin my marriage, shame my family, serve time, become a criminal with a criminal record...ruin my life."

He continued, "However, the criminal thinks, I'll rob a bank, get money, live the good life, buy a nice car, get a girlfriend, live happily thereafter."

Therefore, the criminal mind does not think of the consequences of his actions. He deludes himself by focusing only on the benefits of his crime not the reality or consequences of his decisions.

This is one of the reasons why it is so hard to teach non-believers of Jesus Christ and his Plan of Salvation. Their focus is on the benefits of this life and the pleasures of the flesh at the same time they deny the inevitable...death and judgment.

After all has been said and done on their behalf during their lives, motivated by fear, as they take their last breath in this life, some claim repentance and a belief in God. Because of fear, this is why there are so many deathbed confessions.

Unfortunately, these deathbed confessions are of little value to them, since the Savior judges an individual's whole life from cradle to grave judging each action, thought and deed and not their actions of the last 5 minutes of their life.

#### **CROSSING THE VEIL...**

As the years advanced, and older age set in, Floyd became more feeble and prone to falling down. I saw the writing on the wall and wrote an article titled "Signs" concerning his deteriorated physical condition. Based on my observations over the years of seniors in the Florida area, I saw a pattern that begins with losing their balance and repeatedly falling down, which eventually leads to death.

In the early months of 2013, our phone calls were frequent and he would often disclose to me his falling down episodes and how they were getting more frequent. His mind was still sharp and he could recall events with ease but when he would go to his bathroom or take out the trash he would collapse and lose his balance falling to the ground.

Through his routine physical check-ups, his doctors discovered obstructions in his gall bladder. They scheduled an operation sometime in July 2013.

But, before he went into the Washington Medical Hospital in Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, he began having trouble maintaining his concentration.

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As I would talk to him on the phone, his mind would wander and he would forget whom he was even talking to. I found I could no longer have a coherent conversation with him.

After he entered into the hospital and had his gall bladder operation, due to the deterioration of his muscles and mental cohesiveness, he was not allowed to return home.

While in the hospital, he not only had 2 heart attacks, but he fell down several times, hitting his head, to the chagrin of his doctors.

The doctors agreed to give him physical therapy, which helped a little and eventually allowed him to return to his home. During his home stay, he fell down several times again and mom had to call the fire department several times to come pick him up. This occurred with such frequency, the fireman finally demanded he be returned to the hospital.

While at the hospital, he fell more times trying to get up out of bed...against the advice of his doctors and the doctors decided he would benefit from hospice treatment.

He was transferred to the Saint Clair Nursing Home hospice department in Saint Clair, Missouri, where he lived but he could no longer walk on his own. He tried to get up on several occasions again against doctors orders and fell hitting his head.

Mom said he was angry, scared and confused and argued with the doctors and nurses and begged to go home even to the point he became delusional. He kept saying his son, "Tom, would come and get him and take him home" or his other living son, "Mike would take him home."

On Monday, November 4, 2013, mom said dad ate a half a bowl of oatmeal and went off to sleep and when the hospice staff tried to wake him up, he was unresponsive. He remained in that unresponsive condition for several days.

Unable to assist or go to him due to my previous heart attack in April 2012, I didn't want him to remain in this awful condition day after day, while the hospice staff waited for him to die.

### PRESIDENT KARVEL KOFOED

Prompted by the spirit, I decided to call the Sullivan, Missouri Missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...my intent; to ask them to go over to the Saint Clair Nursing Home and give Dad a blessing. Sullivan is the nearest location to St. Clair, which has a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints congregation.

Using the Internet, I located the phone number of the Branch President of the Sullivan Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Around 3pm in the afternoon of the 7th of November 2013, I called the Branch President of the Sullivan, Missouri Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and asked him if he could get a message to the missionaries.

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President Karvel Kofoed answered the phone and I explained to him my father's condition and would he be able to locate the missionaries and ask them to give my father a blessing?

President Kofoed informed me the missionaries were in the process of being transferred and reorganized and there were none available at this time.

However, he stated he would gladly go to the nursing home and offer a blessing to my father on my behalf. He said he would ask one of his fellow brethren to go with him and they would drive the 15 or more miles from Sullivan to Saint Clair to give him a blessing.

I thanked him and explained; due to my recent heart attack I was not in a healthy enough condition to travel the distance from Florida to Missouri and really appreciated their assistance.

I also informed President Kofoed, when he and his companion would arrive at the nursing home, he would find Dad, unconscious, alone and unresponsive and no one would disturb them while they gave the blessing.

I feel I was prompted by the Holy Ghost to prepare them for his physical condition so they would not be shocked by his unresponsive state.

I asked him to call me when they were back home and let me know how it went.

That evening on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at around 8:30pm, I received a call from President Kofoed, informing me they had just returned from giving Dad a blessing. President Kofoed said I was correct, Dad was unconscious and alone and no one disturbed them while they gave the blessing.

He also stated, the fellow priesthood holder he had taken with him was an Elder and a new member to the church and had never given a blessing before.

#### TYPES OF BLESSINGS...

My dear reader, I am familiar with two basic types of blessings in my 38-year tenure in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...a healing blessing and a comfort blessing.

When we brethren, lay our hands upon the head of the sick, to give a blessing, we never know what we are going to say because we ask the Lord to relay through us, his desires and wishes concerning the person we are blessing.

If the blessing turns out to be a healing blessing, the Holy Ghost informs the individual they will be healed from their ailment and recover their health. The scriptures give several examples of the Savior giving this type of blessing.

If the blessing turns out to be a comfort blessing, the Holy Ghost informs the individual they shall be comforted and peace settles over the afflicted and usually they eventually recover but it is a slow process and takes a period of time to recover.

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However, when President Kofoed called me concerning Dad, he stated his companion Elder gave Dad a release blessing and informed my father's spirit, the Lord has given his spirit permission to leave his body and enter the spirit world in comfort and peace.

In all my years of church membership (38 years), I had never heard of that type of blessing. See...old dogs can be taught new tricks.

After inquiring with many others church members I have found this is a common blessing given by the Lord.

When a body is about to die or as we call it, "cross the veil", they are sometimes confused, angry, hostile and scared concerning their condition. During the release blessing, the Holy Ghost gives the individual's spirit permission to leave their body and join him in the spirit world.

In doing so, the spirit is comforted and at peace and the transition from this life to the next is smooth and without any fear or confusion. The spirit feels the love of the Savior and enters in his glory.

When one receives this type of blessing, their spirit no longer wishes to stay in their body and shortly after...they cross the veil.

This was the case with Dad; a few hours after the blessing and minutes after midnight on the 8th of November 2013 he crossed the veil.

I thanked President Kofoed and grateful for his obedience to his calling and generosity. I also thanked my Heavenly Father for taking care of my father.

Be mindful my reader, all of the above mentioned blessings are predicated on the will of the Lord and we the Priesthood are the empty vessels for these blessings never injecting our own desires or wishes for the recipient.

#### TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL...

We have been taught by latter-day revelation, when one dies without the knowledge of the Plan of Salvation and the saving ordinances the Lord has restored through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, if that individual did not have the opportunity to hear the fullness of the Plan of Salvation while in the flesh, then they are given the opportunity to hear this plan when they cross the veil.

Many who attend different denominations while here on the Earth, hear a portion of the plan, and another denomination teaches parts of the Plan of Salvation but unless you hear the whole Plan of Salvation as revealed by the Savior through latter day revelation, then through his mercy, you have that opportunity in the spirit world.

The Lord has decreed, every soul who has been born on this earth and will be born on this earth has to make a decision; to accept or reject the Plan of Salvation...either while in the flesh or in the spirit world.

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We have also been instructed; we cannot perform these Holy Temple ordinances for our kindred dead, until they have been deceased for at least one earth year.

With this being said, in essence, if we do not obtain those sacred ordinances here on the earth, when we die, we go to spirit school.

While we tarry on the Earth, we are assaulted by worldly encumbrances designed to distract us from spiritual matters. Unfortunately, some of us associate with people who share our disinterested relationship to our Heavenly Father.

We surround ourselves with excuses, activities, sports, work and distractions designed to disable our independent thought process and most important of all, we resist the open-mindedness necessary to learn and live the fullness of the Plan of Salvation in it's entirety.

We humans are resistant to change and reject anything requiring us to alter our established lifestyles. We are individuals of habit and do not readily accept changes outside our comfort zone. To adapt to the Lord's Plan of Salvation, requires a change of heart, attitude, personality and most important of all...commitment.

Lucifer's worldly influences teach us to worship the flesh and we are indoctrinated with this ideology from childbirth. Lucifer is always trying to maintain control over us hoping to maintain this control the rest of our lives and he succeeds...unless we are rescued.

While under his bondage, we fail to investigate, accept, repent and follow the Savior's Plan of Salvation. Many are deceived...they think they have freedom to live the way they want to and in reality they are in bondage to their emotions, desires, appetites and suffer the consequences of their unrighteous choices.

Due to Lucifer's dominating influence while in this life, this is why the Lord gives those who never had the opportunity to accept or reject the Plan of Salvation in this life...another chance.

Consequently, Floyd, after his death, began spiritual school and was taught the Plan of Salvation in its fullness. He learned the meaning of the creation of this world, he was taught the true relationship mankind has with their Heavenly Father, he was taught the full story of Adam and Eve and the real meaning of the Garden of Eden.

He also was taught, where we were before we were born on Earth. He was taught about the Great Council in Heaven. He also learned, about the Priesthood authority of our Heavenly Father and the role Jesus Christ has as the Savior of mankind.

He learned how he and his wives can be sealed for eternity through the ordinances of the Holy Temples and how they can live together happily in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

As his earth year advanced after his death and his teachings increased, he became aware of all the ordinances and blessings waiting for him, only the living could perform, on his behalf in the Lord's Holy Temples.

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However, on the flip side, he also learned of the consequences of rejecting the Plan of Salvation and not making correct choices.

All of these things were presented to him without the influence of Lucifer and his cohorts, allowing Floyd to make educated decisions based on all the facts.

Then, he was asked to make a decision...does he accept the Plan of Salvation and all that will be required of him or does he reject this plan. He makes his decision...then he waits. And he waits.

Before he can progress further in the spirit world, he is waiting for someone on the Earth to perform these saving ordinances by proxy, on his behalf in one of the designated Holy Temples of Jesus Christ.

However, Floyd is lucky, he has someone here on the earth, whom is worthy, in the eyes of the Lord and can perform these ordinances for him.

Unfortunately, millions of others who are waiting are not as lucky. They have been waiting for thousands of years for their Temple ordinances to be performed.

If no one in their family performs these ordinances on their behalf, here on the Earth, then they must wait until the Millennium when the Savior returns to Earth and takes over the leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and establishes his Kingdom worldwide in ALL nations.

During the Millennium, only the righteous will be here and the Temples will be operating 24/7 performing these ordinances for all those who never obtained the saving ordinances of the Lord's Plan of Salvation.

So, to circumvent those of you, who think they will wait until they die to hear the Lord's Plan of Salvation, you may be in spirit prison for a long time. It is not in your best interest to procrastinate your opportunity to hear this Plan while in the flesh on this Earth.

I am going to share another truism; when the second coming takes place, the reason the Savior will be bringing millions of saints with him to the Earth, is to provide the personnel necessary to perform these saving ordinances in his temples.

When he returns, millions of people on this earth will be seeking out the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be baptized and receive these ordinances and currently we do not have enough living members worldwide to take care of such a demand.

Churches and Temples will be built on almost every corner, to perform the ordinances necessary for the 'newly" arriving members. All those souls since Adam and Eve will be resurrected and they will need those ordinances.

I beseech you, don't procrastinate your salvation, RUN...don't walk to the nearest missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and listen, read, pray, accept and commit to the precepts of the Lord's Plan of Salvation. We need you and you need us, time is running out.

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 3 December 2014

#### PREPARATION FOR FLOYD'S TEMPLE VISIT...

As Dad's year ended on the 8th of November 2014, I processed his name and received his temple ordinance form authorizing him for his temple ordinances. Planning to make a trip down to the Colorado Temple at Littleton, Colorado, a half hour's drive from Aurora, however, I had heard our ward youth were preparing a trip to the Colorado Temple to perform vicarious baptisms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2014.

It appeared to be a great opportunity to perform Dad's ordinances at the same time.

I haven't personally done any Temple ordinance work for my ancestors for at least 10 years. I have sent thousands to the temple for proxy work but physically; I haven't done much work because the Orlando Temple was a 2 hour trip one way and my endurance and energy level was lacking.

However, I was curious to know if Dad had accepted the Plan of Salvation. I decided to personally do the ordinance work for him instead of using a proxy.

I asked the Lord if he wanted me to stand as proxy for Dad and be baptized on his behalf or if he wanted me to baptize Dad and have someone else stand as proxy...he replied he wanted me to be proxy for Dad.

#### A WORD ABOUT PROXIES...

A proxy is one individual standing in or representing another individual in name and actions. This practice is done with such frequency in the business world especially concerning stock sales, transfers and votes.

One, who does not or cannot appear at these stockholder meetings, authorizes another to stand as their proxy and perform in their name their wishes concerning the transactions.

The key to this form of representation is obtaining the permission or authority of the original person for their "proxy" to carry out their wishes.

Lawyers when reading a will of a deceased person, stand as proxy for their client performing their duties as their client directed.

When a preacher, minister, bishop, rabbi or any representative quotes, states, performs activities in the name of the Lord, they are in effect, proxies for the Savior.

Since some deceased persons failed to perform their own ordinances in one of the Lord's Holy Temples while they were living on the earth, then others, either family members or someone who is willing to assume the responsibility as proxy for and on behalf of the deceased person, is permitted to assume that responsibility.

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This is a great blessing bestowed on worthy members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Lord through Latter Day revelation has revealed this important process to help the saints redeem the dead.

Even though someone performs these ordinances on behalf of the dead, the responsibility of accepting or rejecting these ordinances falls on the deceased person.

To perform these ordinances on behalf of the dead is one of the highest forms of love we can exhibit for our fellow man. After all, the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate proxy performed for ALL of mankind.

#### **BROTHER AND SISTER MAURICE AND JOEY (LEWIS) FUTRELL**

So, my next question was...who should baptize me as proxy for Dad? As I looked around my ward for possible candidates and seeking inspiration, I remembered Brother Maurice Futrell whom I had been his home teacher and thought that was a great idea to have him baptize me on behalf of my father...if he was available.

Brother and Sister Futrell had only been members since last year and he and his wife; Joey were recently sealed in marriage in the Littleton Temple for time and eternity. Bonnie and I were privileged to witness their sealing ceremony the previous week.

I knew Brother Futrell worked in the evening and since the Youth Temple Trip was at 5pm on a Tuesday night, I didn't know if he would be able to get the evening off. He worked for a manufacturing plant that specialized in gluten free products.

I called Brother Futrell and made an appointment to visit with him and Joey so we could ask them something very important. Bonnie and I met at their home on Tuesday November 25th before thanksgiving and asked Brother Maurice if he could baptize me on behalf of my father the following Tuesday.

He said he would be honored and agreed. He stated he would ask his supervisor for the time off and we informed them Bonnie and I would pick him and Joey up at 3:30pm on Tuesday and drive them to the Temple. We also informed them we would be buying dinner as a celebration at Applebee's a few blocks from the Temple after the ceremony.

After waiting for 38 years, since I had become a member of the Lord's church, the day was finally approaching. I was apprehensive concerning what I would find at the Temple concerning my Father's attitude.

All those years he was indifferent concerning the Gospel and I really wasn't expecting he had changed his mind after death.

However, as a dutiful son, father, grandfather and priesthood holder in the Lord's Church, I knew it was my duty to give him the chance and as we are counseled...we do not have the right or authority to decide who gets these saving ordinances and who doesn't.

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Regardless of how you feel concerning your parents, if you have issues with the way you were raised, concerning their decisions, mistakes and hurt feelings they may have produced, remember, all are imperfect and all are given the opportunity to be forgiven and if you harbor any ill feelings towards anyone...the temple is not the place for you.

Therefore, after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and by adhering to the Gospel principles of Jesus Christ, I was fully instructed concerning the miracle of forgiveness and overtime I had learned how to forgive my parents.

Consequently, I harbored no ill feelings towards my father or mother and only entertain a deep profound love for them. Thereby, having the right mental attitude towards Dad, I felt no ill feelings...only love and respect and gratitude to the Savior for this opportunity.

#### **THE JOURNEY...**

After picking up the Futrells, we headed south down Highway 225 towards the Littleton area. We arrived at the Temple without incident and were the first of our group.

We received word the rest of our group left late and were delayed by two-auto accidents enroute and would join us shortly.

Upon their arrival we had approximately 8 or 9 Priesthood brethren and 25 youth for our session. We all, changed into our appropriate attire and the young sisters were the first to provide the baptisms by proxy. Each youth was baptized for 10 souls and young Sister Sarah Dorny was the first to be baptized.

Bonnie and I had given the youth some names from our family tree and it just happened, Sister Dorny who was 15, drew not only my Aunt Christine (**BEDNAREK**) Mueller who had died the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 and was ready for her Temple ordinances, but also one of Bonnie's aunts and Sister Dorny was baptized by proxy for them.

Brother Larsen officiating the baptisms informed me they were going to do my Dad's baptism last.

After about two hundred baptisms, they asked me to be one of the witnesses. My job was to witness each baptism and see they were properly executed. No mistakes in wording or procedure is allowed and if we witnessed any errors we were to bring this to the attention of the officiators and the baptism would be performed again.

The Lord has given exact instructions concerning some matters in the procedures of his church. These ordinances are to be followed word for word with no deviations or alterations.

At about 6:40pm, Brother Larsen came to me and said, "We are ready for you now." I climbed off of the stool I was sitting on and Brother Futrell was already in the baptismal font, because he had baptized several youth prior and as I walked down the steps into the font, I still felt neutral concerning Dad's participation.

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I asked Brother Futrell, "Are you up for this?" He said sure and as I walked up to Brother Futrell and shook his hand I said, "let's do this." I was nervous because all eyes were on us, about 50 people and I didn't want to mess this up.

I turned to face the monitor and Brother Futrell laid his hand on my shoulder and started to read the card with Dad's name. When I read Dad's full name out loud, a wave of emotion and warmth coursed through my body and I felt the Lord's spirit with me and all of a sudden tears began to flow from my eyes down my cheeks.

I thought, "Oh no, I am going to cry as he lays me in the water", however, I soon realized those were **not my tears**, but my father's tears of gratitude.

Brother Futrell laid me down in the water and baptized me on behalf of my father and I again shook his hand and we walked up the steps and they had a chair waiting for me to sit on at the top of the steps. I sat in the chair and they confirmed me as proxy a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on behalf of my father; Floyd Theodore Pratt.

We all then went to the dressing room and changed into our street clothes and met in the front waiting room of the Temple.

Brother Futrell stated he had felt the spirit overcome him when he began Dad's baptism and Bonnie who was at the top of the stairs, handing out dry towels stated she too, had felt the sprit as Dad was being baptized.

My concerns about Dad accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ was answered and I knew he had not only accepted the Plan of Salvation but also wanted me to know how grateful he was I had performed his ordinances for him.

The rest of his ordinance will be completed as the days go on and we are able to attend the temple again to perform these ordinances for him.

We left the Temple, but for those of you who have had the privilege of attending one of the Lord's Temples, you really don't want to leave because his spirit dwells there and it is one of the few places on this earth you can feel his presence.

We enjoyed our dinner at Applebee's and this experience has now created a bond between the Pratt family and the Futrell family. I told Brother Futrell I would introduce him to Dad when he crosses the veil since he is a much younger man than I and will probably outlive me.

We returned home without incident and I am now satisfied my father has accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ and I am eagerly awaiting our reunion.

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#### PART TWO...THE REST OF THE STORY

After Dad's baptism and confirmation on the 2nd of December 2014, I decided it would be fun to perform the rest of Dad's ordinances on Dad's birthday, the 6th of January in 2015.

As we waited for our time at the Temple, Bonnie and I mentally and spiritually prepared ourselves and drove the half hour drive down to the Littleton, Colorado Temple on Dad's birthday.

The remaining ordinances began with the endowment. The endowment is a gift from the Savior concerning the true circumstances of the creation and Heavenly Father's relationship with his children.

We as members, by proxy, are instructed concerning history and procedures concerning the creation of the Universe and the formation of the Earth and especially enhanced details concerning our first parents.

Through Latter Day revelation, these events are presented in much more detail and answer many more questions concerning the creation story as presented in Genesis.

Also, the endowment presents ordinances necessary for one in the spirit world to enter other worlds or dimensions leaving spirit prison.

Heavenly Father makes covenants and promises to his children and his children also promise by covenant to perform certain obligations.

For faithful obedience, Heavenly Father reveals sacred ordinances only in the Temple to help his faithful.

#### **DADS TURN...**

As I prepared myself to perform Dad's endowment, I again felt indifferent as to how he would receive the information he was about to learn.

In the endowment room, one is instructed as to the creation of the Universe and the true actions, thoughts and responses of Adam and Eve concerning their creation and relationship to one another and our Heavenly Father.

As the endowment progressed, I watched and participated by proxy for my Dad, I felt he was not really very interested. I felt he was not fully engaged in what was taking place and as one who has done maybe 30-40 endowments for others; I didn't feel he was really interested.

His attitude of indifference prevailed through most of the endowment until...there is a certain place during the endowment where the curtain is withdrawn and the veil is revealed showing the steps, procedures and actions needed to leave the spirit prison allowing the participant to enter into other spiritual worlds or dimensions necessary for eternal progression.

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It was when the curtain was opened revealing the veil, an extraordinary thing took place...Dad's spirit took notice and I heard him say to me in a strong forceful voice,

"I KNOW THIS PLACE, I HAVE SEEN THIS, I NEED THIS INFORMATION", then turning his attention to me he said, "PAY ATTENTION, I NEED THIS."

Knowing my Dad all my life, I recognized his personality coming forth and heard his familiar voice. He was serious and he really perked up and was paying attention. I also, paid extra attention since I didn't want to be the beneficiary of my Dad's wrath.

But, little did he know I was well experienced in the endowment procedures.

I guess you will always be a child to your parents regardless of how old you are, so I guess Dad was still thinking of me as little Tommy and that's why he forcibly said, "Pay attention".

After sharing what was said with Bonnie, I began to realize Dad has been watching his family, ancestors and friends going to and fro through the veil and because he was not endowed as of yet, he was not allowed to go with them.

I had never thought about that before. If you don't receive your Temple ordinances while in the flesh or by proxy, then you are left behind. You are not allowed to leave certain areas until you receive the information only found in the Lord's Holy Temples. All you can do is watch others leave the spirit prison until you are endowed.

Of all of the endowments I have performed for others, I had never had a response to the endowment session so strongly, with conviction by anyone except my Dad. But, I knew it was him and he was serous and as I found out later, he wasn't done talking yet, he had more to say.

### **TEMPLE SEALINGS...**



After that extraordinary endowment session, still in some form of shock, still surprised by my Father's response, Bonnie and I decided to go ahead and perform his sealing ordinances.

One of the greatest gifts Heavenly Father has bestowed on his children is the sealing ordinance that binds or marries husbands and wives and binds children to parents. Malachi 4: 5,6 reveals these ordinances would take place in the latter days and the Lord revealed there was a penalty if these ordinances were not performed.

All marriages performed by any religion, civil authority, municipality, organization and/or legal entity on the earth only carry the authority to marry husbands and wives "until death due they part"...save one...The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

One of the blessings of the restoration of the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *i.e.*, marrying or sealing husbands and wives for time (while on the Earth) and for eternity.

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This also includes sealing children to parents for time, (while on the earth) and for eternity, these ordinances have been restored to mankind through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

If the secular world knew about these ordinances, they would run, not walk to the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to find out what they must do to obtain these wonderful blessings.

But, Lucifer, an enemy of mankind, tries his hardest to dissuade any and all from obtaining this knowledge. Through his own actions he has lost his privilege to obtain this blessing and as the old saying goes, "misery loves company."

When Bonnie and I finally, after 10 years of membership in this church, made it to the Chicago Temple to receive our ordinances, including the sealing ordinances, I began to look, treat and respect my wife with a different perspective.

After being sealed for time and eternity, I looked at her from an eternal perspective. She was my eternal spouse and partner and together we were endowed with power from on high to combat Lucifer and his minions.

I no longer looked at her as a temporary helpmate, but she became my Queen and spiritual companion and it brings us comfort to know together we would continue our partnership for eternity.

Death has no hold, nor could claim any ownership to our spirits and we were promised, if we lived worthy lives and endured to the end, we would become equal inheritors to our Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

Wow, what a comfort and blessing to know, our marriage and relationship will continue after death.

Also, the Lord has made this possible by proxy; we can offer the same blessing to our deceased ancestors. In addition to the spousal sealing, we have been authorized to seal children to parents maintaining the eternal family.

All of these sealings are predicated on each individual accepting the Plan of Salvation and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since we the living, have no idea, which one of our deceased ancestors is interested in the Plan of Salvation of Jesus Christ, we perform these sealing ordinances by proxy for our kindred dead and for the living by attending the temples.

Being able to perform these sealing ordinances for our ancestors is indeed a tremendous gift and blessing, we the living, can do for our ancestors. These ordinances have been authorized and can only be performed in one of the Lord's dedicated temples.

Therefore, as I continue to honor my ancestors, it was time for Dad to be sealed to my birth mother in the temple.

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 3 December 2014

#### DELORES VIRGINIA (BROWN) PRATT EHLERS...MY BIRTHMOTHER



Delores "Doe" Virginia (BROWN) Pratt Ehlers was born in City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafavette Avenue, Saint Louis (city), Missouri, United States on 31 October 1925 to Peter Conley & Olga Elmira (O'DANIEL) Brown.

Delores married Floyd Theodore Pratt on 1 March 1947 at Saint Clair, Franklin County, Missouri. After a short marriage and divorce in 1948 she married Arthur William Ehlers 1949-1950. She divorced him and moved to New Orleans. Orleans Parrish. Louisiana.

Delores was a talented singer and songwriter and performed in many of the New Orleans nightclubs. She left New Orleans and moved to be with her mother after her sister's death in 1955.

Delores lived with her mother, Olga Elmira (O'DANIEL) Brown Hyche in Venice, California near Venice Beach. Delores fell on a city bus in 1981 and injured her kidneys.

After several unsuccessful operations she died on 1 March 1981 at the Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bellevue, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. She is buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery, 1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California.



She had a son, your author: Floyd Thomas Pratt, from her first marriage and a daughter, Karen Elaine (EHLERS) from her second marriage and a sister, Dorothy "Dot" Louise (BROWN) Gutierrez. Grandmother Olga told me Delores had a set of twins in New Orleans with a man by the name of Nicholas "Nicky" Gagilardi but Olga would not discuss the details.

Other than a few phone calls to Delores in California in the 1980's, I don't remember much about her other than details my father told me. For interested

parties, more concerning her life and my father's courtship can be obtained from the author.

After Delores' death in 1981, her temple work was completed in 1982 but since Dad was still living, I could not seal them together until after his death in 2014.

This leads us to the next interesting encounter at the Colorado Temple in Littleton.

### BUT FIRST, A WORD ABOUT MARRIAGE SEALINGS...

When we perform these marriage sealings by proxy, there is no guarantee they will be received and accepted by the participants across the veil.

Since we all have been given the gift of free agency, or the opportunity to choose for ourselves, couples who have been married in the flesh, are not obligated to continue that relationship across the veil.

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When we seal our relatives and ancestors, they can reject this sealing and are under no obligation to continue their relationship after death.

We the living, hope they will want to continue their relationship and if they had children, will want to accept their children or be accepted by their children as an eternal family. We have no idea what their feelings towards one another are, or if they want to separate and dissolve their relationship.

We have been commanded to perform these sealings and allow the recipients to decide and work out their differences, if any, and our obligation to them concerning this matter is finished.

I suspect there is much discussion going on across the veil concerning multiple spouses.

Under the guidelines of the Plan of Salvation, worthy men are allowed to receive multiple wives, however, worthy females are allowed only one sealed spouse.

We can perform multiple sealings for a female ancestor or relative in the Temple, but she will have to choose only one man for her eternal spouse.

Back in Bradenton, Bonnie and I was celebrating a female friend's 100th birthday at a local restaurant and I asked her how many times has she been married?

My intent of asking such a question was going to explain to her how she and her husband could be sealed together forever in one of the Lord's Holy Temples and explain the concept of eternal marriage.

She replied she had been married five times. I asked her, "Out of all those husbands, which one would you like to continue your relationship and be married for eternity?" She said, "None of them!!"

I was shocked and caught off guard because there was nowhere for me to go with that answer and I dropped the subject.

Regardless of your relatives or ancestors multiple marriages and divorces, you and I do not have the authority to decide whom we seal them to and whom we do not seal them to.

Even if you didn't like your mother's additional husbands, unless she voluntarily sealed herself to the spouse of her choice, while she was living in the flesh, in one of the Lord's Holy Temples, we are obligated to seal our ancestors and relatives to all their spouses and THEY will decide across the veil which one they choose...or none.

Since my Father; Floyd Theodore Pratt had been married twice, and since his second wife, Dorothy is still living with no interest in the Church, then it is my obligation to seal Dad to his first wife, my birth mother; Delores Virginia (**BROWN**) Pratt Ehlers.

I have no control over what they decide but my obligation is to do the sealing and let them work it out.

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#### FLOYD THEODORE PRATT AND DELORES VIRGINIA (BROWN)'S SEALING...

There are designated rooms within the temple in which various ordinances are performed. For sealings they are called sealing rooms.

There is an alter in the center of the room, where the couples kneel facing each other and the ordinances are performed by an officiator, one who has been "set apart" and holds the authority to perform such ordinances. These men are select and only they have the authority to perform these sealings.

At both sides of the room are large mirrors, as the couple ponders their image in the mirrors, these mirrors cast duplicate images repeated for infinity, indicating to the couple their sealing is eternal.

Bonnie and I have participated in over 50 sealings and each one is different and represents the ancestor or individuals by proxy. Sometimes we are sealing ancestors and sometimes we are sealing couples we know nothing about.

These sealings are fairly routine and the wording never deviates from the Lord's prescribed text. They are sacred and those who participate are solemn and circumspect and carry a demeanor of reverence permeating the sealing session.

As I knelt down on one side of the alter to be proxy for Dad, Bonnie knelt down opposite of me to be proxy for Delores. As the officiator began, I could feel Dad's presence and he seemed surprised to see Delores across from him. I could sense his curiosity.

After the officiator finished with the sealing, Bonnie, who was proxy for Delores began to laugh and she leaned over towards me and said, "Do you want to kiss the bride?" Dad reacted with horror and shock that Delores would be so bold in such a sacred place.

I saw in Bonnie's continence, a happy and joking girl that I knew was not Bonnie but Delores' personality shining forth. Even though I never met Delores, I felt a kindred connection to Delores in the Temple because I too, find it very hard to be serious all the time and I could feel her fun loving attitude taunting Floyd.

When I was growing up, Dad used to get angry with me all the time because I found humor in everything. I guess I reminded him of Delores and it would make him angry.

Where I was finding Delores interesting and delightful, Dad felt her attitude was inappropriate and after all, they have been divorced since 1948! Dad remarried in 1949 and Dorothy is still living and cannot be sealed to Dad until one year after her death.

Remember, when I told you women and men spirits are not allowed to commingle in the spirit world unless they have been sealed by one with the authority in one of the Lord's Holy Temples?

So, Dad and Delores were meeting for the fist time since their divorce back in 1948. Of course, they were surprised and now they have some time to decide if they want to be together for eternity.

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Since Delores was married a second time to Arthur William Ehlers after Dad, maybe she wants to be sealed to him? When I can verify Arthur's death then I will have their sealing completed. Delores may decide she doesn't want any of her former husbands. It is her decision.

Will Delores and Floyd reconcile their problems and accept this sealing and marriage? Who knows, it is not for me to decide their destiny, but my responsibility is to give them the opportunity to reconcile and who knows with repentance all things are possible.

I am routing for both of them and because of their interaction in that sealing room, strengthens my testimony this is the Lord's true church and we are doing his will.

Remember my brothers and sisters...when our ancestors see their repented spouses dressed in their Temple white robes, all anger, hostility, hurt feelings, and trespasses are melted away by the Love of the Savior and through tear-filled eyes, forgiveness is obtained and families can and will be together forever.

#### A WORD ABOUT CHILDREN'S SEALINGS...

Another ordinance performed in the Lord's Holy Temples is the sealing of children to their parents.

The purpose of this ordinance is to bind families together as a whole complete family unit. All children born to a family will have the opportunity to accept or reject this ordinance.

As applies to the marriage covenant, we perform these ordinances without knowing if they will be accepted across the veil, but with the hope they are and in turn blessing those families.

All children regardless if they lived to achieve adult stature or died in the womb are sealed to their parents.

Through latter day revelation, to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord has revealed, any child who died as a baby or youth will be resurrected during the Millennium and the mother will have the privilege and opportunity to raise that child to full stature and adulthood.

If we, the living, can identify these children, then we are commanded to perform the sealing ordinance and seal them to their parents.

But, one may ask, what if you can't figure out whom the child belongs to or there are missing children in the records? Then the Heavenly Records will be opened to us during the Millennium and we will be allowed to perform these sealings for these "lost children".

No one is forgotten, no one is left behind and no one is ever a displaced soul. Remember, ALL will receive the Plan of Salvation and all will get to choose. And all will bend their knees in reverence and declare Jesus Christ is the Savior and son of our Heavenly Father and give praise to our Heavenly Father. (Romans 14:11)

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 3 December 2014

#### FLOYD THEODORE PRATT'S SEALING TO HIS PARENTS...



Columbus "Lum"
Benjamin Alexander Pratt
1893-1947 taken circa
1917 posted by
grandson; Floyd Thomas
Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

After Floyd was sealed to Delores, I became proxy for his father, my grandfather; Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt known as "Lum" and Bonnie stood as proxy for Dad's mother; Rue Flavilla (**JOHNSON**) Pratt. Lum died in 1947 and Rue died in 1983, so they have had their Temple ordinances completed for a long time.

We had another priesthood brother stand in by proxy representing Floyd. As the officiator began the sealing ordinance to seal Floyd to his parents, I could sense my Grandfather Lum as being compliant and doing what his wife wanted him to do.

grandson; Floyd Thomas I never met my Grandfather Lum since he died before I was born, but I could feel a strong, no nonsense type of man, who was doing what he had done for all of his other children, since Floyd was the last one of his children to cross the veil.

However, looking at Bonnie, I could see the tears flowing from her eyes and she was very emotional and later she told me Rue was so glad and grateful to now have all her children sealed to them.

With all ordinances now completed for my Dad, the only remaining ordinances waiting to be performed for my Dad was for my stepmother; Dorothy (**BEDNAREK**) Pratt, whom I dearly love. Since she is not interested in any religion, I doubt due to her elderly age, she will make it to the temple in this life.

I hope one of my children will be able to do her ordinances if I should cross the veil before she does.

### **NEED MORE PROOF?...**

When in the sealing room, sometimes the officiator will ask random couples if they would like to perform some sealings of unrelated deceased couples.

We were asked at one of our Temple attendances if we would be proxies for a couple. We agreed and like I have mentioned before, these rooms in the Temple are sacred and sacred ordinances that affect people across the veil are conducted there.

THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS and has eternal consequences and don't you think otherwise.

So, Bonnie and I, who are very reserved and respectful and mindful in whose house we are, knelt across from each other and when the officiator called the deceased couple by name, who were unknown to us, they are allowed to come to the Temple and receive their ordinances.

We were not prepared for what took place next. The wife of this man (Bonnie as proxy) began to laugh with uncontrollable joy and happiness. The husband of this girl (me by proxy) took Bonnie's hand, slammed my hand into her hand with such force and laughed with joy as he looked into his wife's face.

I have never had such reaction to a sealing as this couple was displaying.

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 3 December 2014

They giggled and laughed like children and interrupted the officiator several times before he could finish the ceremony. When it was completed, Bonnie and I were embarrassed and apologized to the other couples in the room for our outburst.

The officiator explained this reaction during the marriage sealing happens all the time and was normal since some of these coupes have been waiting for hundreds of years to receive their ordinances. They are so happy and full of joy they can't contain themselves.

We still apologized again, since Bonnie and I have never experienced a sealing where the proxies took other and physically and verbally expressed themselves with such jubilation.

#### **STILL NEED MORE PROOF?...**

Bonnie and I on another occasion were in the sealing room and we were going to seal one of her aunts to her husband.

When the officiator called the names of the deceased couple, he pronounced the female's birth name Boeckman with a Dutch accent. The female, being Bonnie by proxy, turned to the officiator and told him it was a German pronunciation and pronounced as such.

He informed her, he knew this name from his old country and the name was pronounced as he said. Bonnie's Aunt became irritated and repeated her displeasure with his pronunciation.

This banter back and forth went on several times and myself being her husband by proxy had had enough, and I found myself raising my voice and telling Bonnie's Aunt, "Will you please leave him alone and let him finish the ordinance?"

Bonnie's Aunt lowered her head and meekly quietly said, "Yes Sir" The sealing ordinance was completed without further incident.

Once again Bonnie and I were mortified. You never talk back to the officiator let alone raise your voice. I could see in Bonnie's countenance a confrontational attitude when she confronted the officiator. This is not Bonnie; Bonnie is very reverent and circumspect.

I could also feel the husband's displeasure with his wife's arguing and he stepped in and when he raised his voice, she became subservient, meek and complied without further discourse.

We can't explain why we are so receptive to the dead and can feel their thoughts, attitudes and feelings during these Temple Ordinances.

Someone suggested we were becoming conduits for the dead because of our testimonies concerning Temple Ordinances and also maybe because we have sent thousands of ancestors to the Temples around the world over the last 40 years.

By Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 3 December 2014

I have learned a great secret concerning our Heavenly Father...the more you align your life with his Gospel principles, the closer you get to him and because of your obedience, the more he pours out his spirit and blessings upon you.

Bonnie and I have never been closer to our Heavenly Father than we are now. Maybe that's why we have these extraordinary stories and experiences to tell.

#### What Do you Do with This Information?...

I have related the facts, which are true, as I have lived them. I have no agenda other than to interest you in investigating the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

My father, with no interest in the Church in this life, felt it important enough to tell me he has seen the veil as portrayed in the Temple; in the spirit world and he NEEDS that information, even to the point of telling me to pay attention so he could receive these ordinances. His concerned emphasis to me maybe indicates we aren't taking the Temple Ordinances serious enough.

My advice to you is to RUN not walk to the nearest Missionaries to learn what you must do to become worthy to attend one of the Lord's Temples.

If you procrastinate this opportunity, then you maybe one of those souls watching others go to and fro through the veil waiting for someone to do your Temple work.

### WHY DO WE CHRISTIANS TRY SO HARD?...



One may ask, why have you Brother Pratt written down your experiences and shared these sacred moments with the rest of the world? Sharing these personal and sacred experiences will only open you up to ridicule and harassment because the majority of people in this world do not believe your words.

Granted, these experiences are personal and private and I went to the Lord in prayer and asked him if I should share these things with you, and he replied, "<u>if one, just one of you investigates the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and gains membership, then my testimony will not have been for naught.</u>"

And yes...Why DO we Christians try so hard to help those who do not yet believe? Why do we spend our time, energy, money and resources trying to teach the Lord's Plan of Salvation knowing we may not achieve success in a conversion of one single soul?

Perceived by the world as a nuisance, why do we subject ourselves to ridicule, harassment, laughter, violence, hatred and indifference?

The answer is simple...because the Savior says you're worth it.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 12 March 2015

## Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Mr. Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Floyd started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others. Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors. It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Due to confusion with Pratt ancestors and not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 50,000 individuals in his database and has achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt created ublications

He began to offer to the public, a series of books titled, <u>Pratt Progenitor Papers</u>. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 11 volumes were sent to the Salt Lake Genealogical Library with 60 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt created the **General Justitute** to further the education of serious researchers.

The **Demealogical Institute** offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the novice as well as advanced researchers, procedures Mr. Pratt has tried and tested to be of great value in family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical techniques for tracking your family history. Many have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses.

Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, these courses are valuable tools for the family history researcher. Mr. Pratt has been informed by researchers his material found in his publications are recorded as source validation for such organizations as the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Upon completion of the educational courses from the G enealogical I institute. (M.A.G.I.) Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many experienced researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize, this knowledge has been acquired over 40 years of research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task. Outside of Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery aka; misnamed the McAllister Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and arrived in the Missouri Territory shortly after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Mr. Pratt recorded all the information off of the headstones including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related to Mr. Pratt or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI".

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, talking to ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text.

What makes this book unique is based on several factors. First, it is the only book to report on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children. Second, this book contains a unique index, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research should be based. No one has ever produced a body of work as unique and professional as this publication.

As the years moved on, Mr. Pratt became concerned about his 40 years of hard research work of various family histories. After a serious heart attack in 2012, Mr. Pratt decided to post his collective bodies of work on a website making them available to all interested researchers without compensation.

After careful consideration, Mr. Pratt chose the website <u>www.openlibrary.org</u>. "Open Library" is a repository of millions of digital books available to the public for free.

There are two or more ways to access Mr. Pratt's publications.

If you open the website as listed above you click on the authors label on the left hand side and type Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. The website will open to his name, click his name and you will be directed to a listing with his name, picture and listing of presently 79 publications (2015).

You can either scroll the list or an easier way to reach his lists is at the following website...

https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists

If you notice there are currently 9 lists or categories of books, article, stories and commentaries attributed to Mr. Pratt's publications.

These "Lists" are broken down as follows not necessarily in any order...

**Vital Text Series** This section covers public vital records. Including marriage records, deeds, census records, births, deaths, probate and indexes to public records. The counties of Missouri covered are as follows; Crawford, Washington, Franklin, Gasconade, St. François, Ste. Genevieve, and Jefferson counties.

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**CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE** The Cradle to Grave Profile (C2G) documents an individual's life from the cradle to the grave. All known research material concerning that individual is represented in a family group sheet format. These C2G profiles are presented to the researcher within a family group sheet detailing the husband, his spouses and all known children. Regardless of how many times the subject has been married, the researcher receives a full report on all known spouses and children.

**The Pratt Chronicles...** The Pratt Chronicles series or what we call a Cradle to Grave (C2G) profile on steroids, is an in-depth comprehensive biography on one individual's life encompassing all known events, including historical factors from the time of their birth to their burial. These events are comprised of current music, inventions, movies, family births, deaths, marriages, legal documents, occupations, military participation, pictures, maps, mementos, world history, US history and economic conditions as they occurred on a yearly basis.

**LITERARY HISTORY SERIES** contains rare books concerning family history written by other authors...many who are deceased. These books were bought over the years and now enjoy the status of a rare find in the genealogical library.

**VIEW FROM THE MAST...** Over the years, Mr. Pratt has found it necessary to write articles concerning observations concerning various family history topics or what we call personal artifacts. These reports, articles and short stories are contained in this section labeled...View From the Mast.

Having a unique perspective from the top of mast on the sailing ship of discovery, Mr. Pratt has sailed through the waters of family history research for the last 40 years. These articles were designed to bring to the attention of family historians some unusual details he has witnessed during his research tenure.

The professional in all manners pertaining to family history research. Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

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ANCESTRAL FAMILY HISTORY OF... This book showcases a selected individual usually a living descendant, detailing their <u>direct line ancestors</u> as far as the research has been completed. This type of format is known as an enhanced pedigree chart. These books contain as many as 10 to 70 generations limited only by the number of ancestors of our primary individual. Whereas, pedigree charts list only the vitals on an individual, these books generate all known notes, articles, legal documents and if applicable, Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles on each and every direct line ancestor and their spouses.

When accessing Mr. Pratt's books on Open Library, click on the heading of each list and you will be directed to the books, articles, stories and commentaries contained in each section. Click on the title of the book or article you desire for a full explanation of the item with contents. On the upper right hand column, are the words "Read Online" and PDF. All of these publications have been uploaded to the Internet Archive Digital Library repository and you can access them directly at the following... https://archive.org/

If you wish to read online, click the read online link, the book will open and if you wish to download this item click the PDF link in the box on right. We suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the books, articles, stories and commentaries at your leisure.

We, in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his research and dedication, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical research field.

In addition we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman Genealogical Institute



## Bonnie Kathleen (BACH) Pratt F.H.C.



Bonnie began her professional career working in her father; Robert Louis Bach's bank...the Bartelso Savings Bank in Bartelso, Santa Fe Township, Clinton County, Illinois, United States.

Learning such skills as documentation, organization, detail to accounting procedures and the necessity of keeping good records, Bonnie honed these skills, which would later be an asset in family history research.

Bonnie began her family history research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Her first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri Ward. This two-year calling gave Bonnie a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, she felt family history research was fun and came easy. When others took vacations to exotic places, Bonnie and family went to courthouses, cemeteries and libraries covering coast to coast in pursuit of her family records.

She walked on the old Dillard Plantation in Spotsylvania County, Virginia and collected souvenirs of a hand made nail and a hand made brick from the old plantation known as Aspen Grove. She cracked open the courthouse records in Randolph County, Illinois locating marriages, deeds, wills and court records deciphering her family roots in pursuit of knowledge concerning her ancestors.

While she endeavored to find these records, a profound love for her ancestors developed over the years and a strong sense of kinship for those who paved the trails in her past became a motivating factor in her desire to know the reasons for their sacrifices.

Parents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles all inquired of her stories and details of her family history research and she became a well-known scholar concerning their roots.

In reality, years of reading and studying increased her expertise and she made it look fun and easy to others. Due to her example she exhibited for the love of ancestors, she inspired others in her family to pursue their family history. All of this was accomplished while raising 6 children.

This dedication and talent did not go unnoticed by the Lord and over the course of several years, Bonnie was asked by her church to instruct several family history courses.

With the assistance of her husband; Floyd Thomas Pratt, Bonnie and Floyd developed several books and courses designed to increase the knowledge of family history researchers. These books, articles, stories and commentaries can be found at the following locations.

Being researchers of the highest degree, Bonnie and Floyd created



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In pursuit of their family history knowledge, the Pratts did not fail in increasing their educational knowledge and both became qualified Family History Consultants (FHC) through a course study offered by their Church.

The Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many experienced researchers. When Bonnie and Floyd are asked for help concerning a stumbling block in someone's family research, their quick wit and logical minds rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast the delighted researcher cannot write the instructions quickly enough. Little do other researchers realize, this knowledge has been acquired over 40 years of research.

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a living descendant, detailing their <u>direct line ancestors</u> as far as the research has been completed. This type of format is known as an enhanced pedigree chart. These books contain as many as 10 to 70 generations limited only by the number of ancestors of our primary individual. Whereas, pedigree charts list only the vitals on an individual, these books generate all known notes, articles, legal documents and if applicable, Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles on each and every direct line ancestor and their spouses.

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If you wish to read online, click the read online link; the book will open and if you wish to download this item click the PDF link in the box on right. We suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the books, articles, stories and commentaries at your leisure.

We, in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of researchers such as the Pratt's. Through their research and dedication, future generations will benefit by their advances in the genealogical research field.

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Lewton Cole, Chairman Genealogical Institute

### Bonnie Kathleen (BACH) F.H.C. Pedigree Chart by Bonnie Katheleen (BACH) Pratt F.H.C. Page 1 of 63

Chart no. 1

#### 4 Blase Bach

- b. 25 July 1867
- p. near Carlyle Post Office, Township 1 R~
- p. Belleville, Belleville Township, Saint Clai~
- d. 13 February 1935
- p. Bartelso, Santa Fe Township, Clinton C~

#### 2 Robert "Bob" Louis Bach

- b. 25 January 1917
- p. Bartelso, Santa Fe Township, Clinton C~ m. 21 June 1941
- p. Old Catholic Church Catherdral, Saint L~
- d. 11 November 1970
- p. Saint Joseph's Hospital, Breese, Breese~



#### 1 Bonnie Kathleen (BACH) F.H.C.

- b. 28 April 1945
- p. Christian Welfare Hospital, East Saint Louis ~ m. 14 August 1972
- p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Church, 210~
- sp. Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.



#### 3 Enid (LEINER)

- b. 7 August 1912
- p. Sparta, Sparta Precinct, Randolph Coun~
- d. 31 July 1991
- p. Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, United ~



- m. 11 September 1893

#### 5 Mary Agnes (JOFFRAY)

- b. 8 July 1873
- p. Belleville, Belleville Township, Saint Clai~
- d. 10 December 1926
- p. Bartelso, Santa Fe Township, Clinton C~



#### 6 Frederic "Fred" Thomas Leiner

- b. 16 October 1884
- p. 515 West Broadway, Sparta City, Sparta ~
- m. 6 June 1907
- p. Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, Un~
- d. 26 April 1963
- p. East Saint Louis City, East Saint Louis ~



#### 7 Hazelton "Hazel" Marye (DILLARD)

- d. 7 June 1973
- p. Collinsville, Collinsville Township, Madi~

#### 8 Blasius Bach

- b. 11 March 1825
- p. Achen, Moselle Department, Lorraine, F~
- m. 11 June 1866
- p. Saint Clair, Illinois, United States
- d. 18 June 1876
- p. near Carlyle Post Office, West Clinton ~

#### 9 Anna "Annie" Margaret Schwartz

- b. 18 June 1829
- p. Alsace-Lorraine, France
- d. 24 January 1893
- p. Bartelso, Santa Fe Township, Clinton C~

#### 10 Peter J. Joffray

- b. 12 September 1844
- p. Saint Clair, Illinois, United States
- m. 13 August 1866
- p. Belleville, Belleville Township, Saint Clai~
- d. 19 July 1915
- p. Belleville, Belleville Township, Saint Clai~

#### 11 Margareth Stark

- b. 6 September 1846
- p. Rhein bayern, Westphalia, Germany
- d. 25 June 1929
- p. Belleville, Belleville Township, Saint Clai~

#### 12 Frederic "Fred" Leiner

- b. 31 July 1851
- p. Hanover, Stadt Hanover, Niedersachsen~ m. 6 January 1881
- p. New Palestine, Palestine Precinct, Rand~
- d. 5 October 1906
- p. Sparta, Sparta Precinct, Randolph Coun~

#### 13 Lorena Belle (TAGGART)

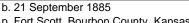
- b. 26 May 1864
- p. Randolph County. Illinois, United States
- d. 18 March 1934
- p. East Saint Louis City, East Saint Louis ~

#### 14 William Wirt Dillard Sr

- b. 10 November 1837
- p. Dillard Plantation, north fork of the Anna~ m. 10 December 1866
- p. Caroline County, Virginia, United States
- d. 30 May 1905
- p. Osawatomie State Hospital, Osawatomie~

#### 15 Margaret "Maggie" Baynham (SPIN~

- b. 1846
- p. Rose Cottage, Chesapeake Bay, Caroli~
- d. 26 April 1899
- p. Kimball, Neosho County, Kansas, Unite~



p. Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, Un~

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- 10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

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Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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